

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 /142 W
-----052665 312152Z /75

P 312108Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3095
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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TAGS: PORG, UNGA, PDEV, RQ
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 CONTINUES CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO
RICO, AUGUST 30, 1978

REF: USUN 3375

1. REF CHARACTERIZED STATEMENTS OF NINE "PETITIONERS" WHO

SPOKE ON PUERTO RICO TO THE COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) AUG 30.
ADDITIONAL DETAILS FOLLOW.

2. US CONGRESSMAN RONALD DELLUMS SPOKE AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN ON BEHALF OF THE PUERTO RICO SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE. IN A SPEECH HIGHLY CRITICAL OF US "COLONIAL DOMINATION" OVER MOST ASPECTS OF PUERTO RICAN LIFE, HE OUTLINED THE AIMS OF THE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE "TO END THE DOMINATION BY THE US OVER THE SUBJECT NATION OF PUERTO RICO". AMONG VARIOUS EXAMPLES OF US DOMINATION HE CITED CONTINUED MILITARY OCCUPATION SINCE 1898, SUPERPROFITS EARNED BY US-BASED CORPORATIONS, AND THE ROLE OF US COURTS AND CONGRESS AS FINAL ARBITERS OF PUERTO RICAN PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITY. HE CALLED INVALID THE REFERENDUM OF 1952 AND THE PLEBISCITE OF 1967 BY WHICH COMMONWEALTH STATUS WAS CHOSEN AND CONFIRMED. IN A REFERENCE TO THE PROPOSED STATUS REFERENDUM OF 1981, HE DECLARED THAT ANY REFERENDUM WOULD BE INVALID UNDER PRESENT "COLONIAL" CONDITIONS. FOR TRUE SELF-DETERMINATION THE US CONGRESS MUST FIRST ACT TO WITHDRAW US POWER FROM ALL BRANCHES OF PUERTO RICAN LIFE SO THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD BE FREE TO DECIDE THEIR DESTINY. HE CITED MATERIAL OBTAINED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT ON ILLEGAL FBI ACTIVITIES AGAINST PRO-INDEPENDENCE GROUPS IN PUERTO RICO. HE URGED THE C-24 TO INITIATE AT THIS SESSION THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO
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COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.

3. LUIS CHAVES GHIGLIOTTY, AN ATTORNEY, FELT THAT COMMONWEALTH STATUS WAS A LEGITIMATE WAY TO EXERCISE SELF-DETERMINATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE UN ASSUME A ROLE AS CATALYST AND ASK THE US TO AID PUERTO RICO TO DEVELOP COMMONWEALTH STATUS TO FULL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

4. LOUIS W. SCHNEIDER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC), CONSIDERED THE CURRENT RELATIONSHIP OF PUERTO RICO WITH THE US "UNSATISFACTORY AND UNTENABLE". HE REFERRED TO A STUDY PREPARED BY THE AFSC IN SEPTEMBER 1977 ON PUERTO RICO WHICH CONCLUDED THAT THE ISLAND WAS A COLONY OF THE US AND SHOULD BE PLACED AGAIN ON THE LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES. ALTHOUGH THE AFSC TOOK NO POSITION ON ANY OF THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, HE SAID THAT IF THE PEOPLE CHOSE GREATER AUTONOMY WITH CONTINUING ASSOCIATION, THE STATUS SHOULD EXCLUDE ANY ELEMENTS OF A COLONIAL RELATIONSHIP AND US SHOULD WITHDRAW ITS MILITARY BASES.

5. RODOLFO CRUZ CONTRERAS, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL HOUSE

OF CULTURE, EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ONLY INDEPENDENCE COULD
GUARANTEE A FULL DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL CULTURE.

6. RUBEN BERRIOS MARTINEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE PUERTO RICAN
INDEPENDENCE PARTY, WAS GREETED ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY THE
PUBLIC AND EXPOUNDED THE STANDARD INDEPENDENTISTA LINE.
HE REFERRED TO GOVERNOR CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELO AS
A SPOKESMAN OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT
THE GOVERNOR HAD SAID THAT THERE WERE NO POLITICAL
PRISONERS IN PUERTO RICO WHILE AMB ANDREW YOUNG HAD

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RECENTLY DECLARED THAT THERE WERE MANY POLITICAL
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PRISONERS IN THE US. HE CRITICIZED AMB YOUNG'S STATEMENT
ISSUED ON AUG 28, 1978, PARTICULARLY THE LAST SENTENCE
WHICH CITED PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROCLAMATION OF JULY 25,
1978, "ISSUED ON THE EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR
(PUERTO RICANS) ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES".
BERRIOS CLAIMED THE ASSOCIATION HAS MEANT CONTINUED
MILITARY OCCUPATION SINCE 1898. IN CONCLUSION HE TOLD THE
C-24 THAT THEIR CREDIBILITY DEPENDED ON WHAT ACTION THEY
TOOK ON PUERTO RICO.

7. MARCO ANTONIO RIGAU, SPEAKING AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN,
STATED THAT THE C-24 MUST ASSUME JURISDICTION UNTIL THE
PUERTO RICANS HAD INDEPENDENCE OR A FORM OF ASSOCIATION
COMPATIBLE WITH RESOLUTION 1514.

8. ISABEL ROSADO, A RESIDENT OF THE ISLAND OF VIEQUES,
REPRESENTING THE CRUSADE FOR LIBERATION (RESCATE) OF
VIEQUES, GAVE A FIREY SPEECH RECOUNTING HER EXPERIENCES
IN CAMPAIGNING FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE, INCLUDING
15 YEARS IN JAIL. SHE DEMANDED CESSATION OF US NAVAL
ACTIVITIES IN AND AROUND VIEQUES.

9. DR. EFREN RAMIREZ, CHAIRMAN OF PROELA INTERNATIONAL
INC., OUTLINED THE IMPROVED COMMONWEALTH STATUS FAVORED
BY HIS ORGANIZATION. THE GA SHOULD EXTEND THE JURISDICTION
OF THE COMMITTEE, HE SAID, TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE
TERRITORIES WHICH CHOOSE FREE ASSOCIATION STATUS.

10. DR. FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ VARGAS, PRESIDENT OF PUERTO
RICANS AGAINST STATEHOOD, ADDRESSED THE C-24 AGAIN THIS
YEAR, CONTENDING THAT PUERTO RICO IS NOT A COLONY BUT A
NATION UNDER MILITARY OCCUPATION. THE US SHOULD RECOGNIZE
PUERTO RICO'S SOVEREIGNTY AND WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS. HE
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HOPED THAT THE C-24 WOULD END THE "LONG ANGUISH" OF THE
PUERTO RICANS.

11. THE COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE HEARING "PETITIONERS" AT
ITS MEETING AUG 31 AT 3:00 PM. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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